



Send story ideas or comments to communications@rentonwa.gov.

Translation of the newsletter is available on the City of Renton's website. For additional translation services contact communications@rentonwa.gov.

If you're not already a subscriber, please [sign up and get up-to-date news and information](#) from City Hall.

Monday, April 12, 2021 | Vol. VI | Issue 13

VOLUME VII, ISSUE 13
APRIL 12, 2021

This Week in Renton

Mayor Armando Pavone

[Click to read](#)

Volunteers make Renton shine!

Members of the Myers Way Ward Youth in the Seattle Stake of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints volunteer at Heritage Park

COURT Judge Jessica Giner is appointed to the bench	COMMUNITY Renton PD unveils hearing assistance card	HATCH PARTY Help Erasmus find his missing friends before his big day!
---	---	---

VIDEO OF THE WEEK

[VIDEO WILL EMBED ONLINE]

“Cows in the Forest”

Go into the creative mind of artist Gabrielle Lewis as she describes her iconic mural, "[Cows in the Forest](#)."

Gabrielle was inspired by the legend of the "Four Cows Wide Bridge." According to Renton lore, Farmer Erasmus Smithers allowed the railroad to bisect his farmland in exchange for a passageway. Smithers asked that it be "four cows wide" to move his livestock between pastures. The corridor remains today.

In addition to a powerful northwest theme, Gabrielle's mural has four cows strategically placed to photobomb your selfie.

You can view the mural on the east side of the Renton Printery Building at 315 S. Third St.

PHOTO OF THE WEEK



Cherry trees in full bloom at City Hall.

COVER STORY



Members of the Myers Way Ward Youth in the Seattle Stake of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints volunteer at Heritage Park

Saluting our volunteers

April is [Volunteer Appreciation Month in Renton](#). While 2020 limited us to few public-facing events, the impact our volunteers had on our community remained strong.

They pitched in at food banks and homeless shelters, making and serving meals to ensure basic community needs were met.

They volunteered their time to meet via Zoom as part of the many boards, committees, and commissions that help guide city policy.

Once COVID-19 restrictions were relaxed, our volunteers came together to successfully hold the Renton Farmers Market. The Renton Downtown Partnership relied on their strong volunteer group to promote the businesses and activities through a pandemic and major utility construction project. Our parks and trails volunteers were also able to return to a regular schedule of socially distanced beautification projects.

Author John Mulhall wrote, "The greatest gift you can give someone is your time." That's what motivates our volunteers. They know through sharing they

can improve our community and help those in need. This makes Renton a better, more connected community.

We look optimistically towards the second half of 2021 and the ability to hold more events. When that time comes, our volunteers will return to center stage. They'll be back as volunteers with police, emergency management, community services, and at the senior center, history museum and city hall, to name just a few. Their selfless donation of time, talent and energy makes a significant contribution to our city, and we owe them our gratitude.

If your church group, business, or community organization is interested in helping with a project, please contact [Teresa Nishi](#).

MUNICIPAL COURT



Judge Jessica Giner

Jessica Giner has been [appointed to the Renton Municipal Court bench](#), replacing [Judge Terry Jurado, who retired after 22 years](#). She began her duties on April 1.

Mayor Armondo Pavone made the appointment, which City Council unanimously approved.

Of her appointment, the judge said, "I am very honored and appreciate the confidence Mayor Pavone and the City Council have shown in me. Renton is such a great city—so diverse and community-focused. I'm looking forward to making

this court a model for other municipalities by focusing on inclusivity, innovation, and public safety."

Judge Giner has served in a judicial role in dozens of courts in Western Washington for 15 years. Over the last six years, she has almost 600 days on the bench, including serving as a pro tem judge in Renton since 2016. She has earned a rating of "Exceptionally Well Qualified" from the King County Bar Association and top ratings from six minority bar associations: QLaw, Latina/o Bar Association, Cardozo Society, Joint Asian Judicial Evaluation Committee, Washington Women Lawyers, and Loren Miller Bar Association.

COMMUNITY



APRIL IS Sexual Assault Awareness Month

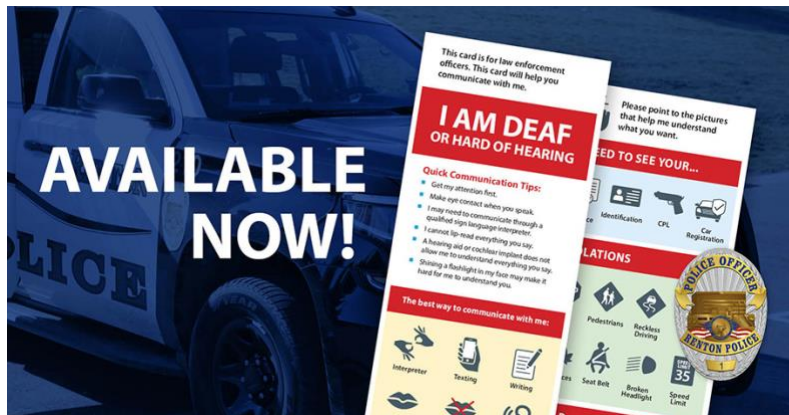
Sexual Assault Awareness Month

In 2020, just over 7,000 adults and children in King County received sexual assault victim assistance from specialized organizations. Sexual assault knows no boundaries, affecting all ages, sexes, ethnicities, and occupations.

The question remains, "What can we do?" There are obviously no easy answers, but it's proven that educating people, especially children, on how to protect themselves from sexual assault can make a difference. Here in Renton, [King County Sexual Assault Resource Center](#) (KCSARC) is on the frontline working with victims of sexual assault and their families, ensuring their voices are heard. Their services include a 24-Hour Resource Line, (888) 99-VOICE, individual therapy, and legal advocacy for victims pursuing a criminal case.

Mayor Armondo Pavone has proclaimed April as [Sexual Assault Awareness Month in Renton](#) to highlight the work of organizations around the county and encourage the community to stand with survivors and stand up against harmful attitudes and behaviors that contribute to sexual assault.

POLICE DEPARTMENT



Renton PD introduces hearing assistance card

Renton police officers are now carrying hearing assistance cards to better communicate with drivers who are hard of hearing or deaf.

The card allows the driver to explain how they communicate best (e.g., lip read). They can also direct the officer's actions to better understand what is needed (e.g., asking the officer to speak more slowly). The reverse side has images allowing the officer to communicate with the driver.

In the past, officers would use their notepads to communicate. This card will now help conversations between the officer and driver easier to understand.

All Renton officers carry this card in their vehicles. Community members can request a card by contacting Cyndie Morris (cmorris@rentonwa.gov) or download it at rentonwa.gov/hearingassist.

PUBLIC WORKS



North side of the intersection of S Third Street and Williams Avenue S.

Wells/Williams starts new intersection phase

The Wells-Williams Conversion Project has started the second phase of intersection work. After completing the north half of the intersections where S Third Street crosses Wells and Williams avenues, work has moved to the southern half.

Traffic will continue to get through the construction zone on S Third Street. Williams Ave S and Wells Ave S will also continue as two-way cul-de-sacs between S 3rd St and S 4th St, allowing businesses access.

You can find the latest project information, including maps for current and planned detours for each phase of intersection work, at rentonwa.gov/ww.

RENTON ART



Find Erasmus' friends as part of Hatch Day

Erasmus, our downtown rooftop dragon, invited 45 of his closest friends to celebrate the [third anniversary of his Hatch Day](#) on April 17. But his friends have gotten lost downtown on their way to see him. Here's how you can help find them.

First, [download and print a Hatch Day Scorecard](#) or pick up a card at one of these locations pick up a "Hatch Day Scorecard" at one of these locations:

- [City Center Parking Garage](#), 655 S Second St. (pamphlet holder will be inside the garage on Saturday, April 17)
- [Sparkle Gifts & Whatnot](#), 824 S Third St.
- [Smoking Monkey Pizza](#), 613 S Third St

Then, starting at 10 a.m. on April 17, come downtown and find 10 of Erasmus' friends. Each dragon has a unique number. When you find one, write the number on your scorecard. One scorecard for each participant, and please don't move the dragons.

During your adventure, you'll also be able to enjoy a variety of foods and beverages, shop for that unique item from downtown merchants or admire the eclectic artwork. Free parking is available in the [City Center Parking Garage](#) (655 S Second St.).

Email your scorecard to arts@rentonwa.gov by noon on April 18 to be entered into the prize drawing. Winners are selected at random and will be announced on April 19.

As part of the April 17 celebration, the [Renton Municipal Arts Commission](#) will present a [Renton Road Show](#) from 2-4 p.m. on Wells Avenue between Erasmus' perch (824 S Third St.) and Four Generals Brewing (229 Wells Ave. S). Stop by and enjoy local musicians Abel Ames and Neo Soul Sensation, Luna Lunabby.

The arts commission is also hosting a "[make your own dragon egg](#)" contest to celebrate Erasmus. A limited number of free kits are available at Sparkle Gifts & Whatnots (824 S 3rd St.) Monday-Saturday 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Post photos of your completed egg using the hashtag #ErasmusEggContest for your chance to win prizes. Winners will be announced on April 13, which is also Erasmus' official Landing Day.



METRO MATTERS



East Link Connections transit survey

[East Link](#) is the light rail connection from Seattle-Bellevue-Redmond that comes online in 2023. Renton residents must have a voice in determining connecting routes.

Metro and Sound Transit's [East Link Connections transit needs survey](#) provides that opportunity. The survey is open through April 25, 2021. It is available in English, Spanish, Simplified Chinese, Traditional Chinese, Korean, Russian, Vietnamese, Hindi, and Tagalog.

Metro is looking at revising and integrating 42 bus routes to create a customer-focused transit network. Their goal is a network that works for more people, increases mobility and focuses on improving access to historically underserved residents. Renton routes 111, 114, 240, 555, and 556 are under consideration for changes. Any service changes would take place in 2023 or 2024.



Metro’s women-led team wins transit innovation award

King County Metro’s [Renton Kent Auburn Area Mobility Project \(RKAAMP\)](#) received [Puget Sound Chapter of WTS's Innovative Transportation Solution Award](#). The award acknowledges a local innovative transportation project led by a woman or team of women.

RKAAMP was designed to provide more mobility options to BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, and people of color) and underserved communities in south King County. The project added route 160 to Renton and revised routes 102, 105, 148, and DART 906. Also, two flexible service routes will be developed for the Highlands and Benson areas.

Congratulations to Vangie Garcia, Transportation Planning Manager, who led Renton’s input into the project. She was one of 13 women to serve on the Partner Review Board.

“It was an honor to work with Metro,” she said. “They used a mobility board of 27 diverse riders from Renton, Kent, and Auburn who had various mobility needs and experiences using transit.

“The final recommendations came from feedback Metro received from our community and surrounding cities.”

COVID-19



Vaccines eligibility expands April 15

Starting Thursday, April 15, all Washingtonians age 16 and up will be eligible to receive a COVID-19 vaccination. No more using the Department of Health’s prioritization guidance webpage to check eligibility.

Use the [Vaccine Locator](#) to find an appointment. The locator is available in 30 languages and will add seven more languages by the end of the month. Those who have further questions or need help making an appointment can call the state’s COVID-19 information hotline at 1-800-525-0127, then press #.

Language assistance is available.

- [COVID Vaccine information](#)

EVENTS & ACTIVITIES



Beyond the Stage: ‘Abridged’ History of Jazz

Beyond the Stage is a free, monthly Zoom series featuring local and PNW artistic creators. Experience a variety of art forms and engage in conversation from the comfort of your home. Dates and times will vary.

From Dixieland to Big Band, how has jazz evolved?

Find out on Thursday, April 15, 7-8 p.m. via Zoom from educators and musicians Mike Simpson (horn) and Brian Hoskins (piano). Mike, of JazzHorn, lives in Renton and is a private instructor, conductor of the Renton City Concert Band, and retired music educator. Brian is from Kent and is the choral conductor at Lindbergh High School and Nelsen Middle School and the choir conductor at Rainier Youth Choirs.

Register at [rentonwa.gov/register](#).



Mindset Training

Great thoughts lead to great actions!

Classes for Adults & Children
Wednesdays, April 14–May 12
[rentonwa.gov/register](#)

Mindset Training for Adults & Youth

The “Intro to Mindset Class” for adults and youth introduces fundamental mindset skills and practice. Skills will allow adults to take greater control of their lives to pursue personal and professional goals. For those 17 and under, improve your self-confidence, recognize the power of thoughts and unleash your inner leader.

Courses are led by former college and pro head coach Arvin Mosley Jr., CEO and Founder of Triple Impact Coaching.

Wednesdays, April 14 to May 12. Register for [adult classes, 7-7:45 p.m.](#) and [youth classes, 4:30-5:15 p.m.](#)

Virtual Art “Papier-mâché Spring Fun”

Ages 8 and up. Celebrate spring with a papier-mâché bird’s nest or a baby woodland creature. Follow step-by-step with the instructor to make the nest or the creature form. Use the instructor's design to finish, or invent your own design with decorative details and complete it from home.

The course is held on Friday, April 16, at 2 p.m. Register at rentonwa.gov/register.

CITY COUNCIL



Mayor Armondo Pavone (center front) is flanked by the 2021 Renton City Council. Ruth Pérez and Council President Randy Corman are seated in the front row. Standing: Valerie O'Halloran, Ed Prince, Council President Pro Tem Ryan McIrvine, Kim-Khánh Văn, and Annelina Benedetti

April 5, 2021 Meeting

- [Meeting documents](#) (approved committee reports, motion sheets, and council committee meeting calendar)
- [Proclamations](#): Sexual Assault Awareness Month and Volunteer Appreciation Month
- [Council meeting video](#)
- [Committee of the Whole video](#)
- [Approved Minutes](#) from March 22, 2021 meeting

During the COVID-19 pandemic, the Renton City Council meets via Zoom. For information on viewing or participating in a council meeting, go to rentonwa.gov/council. Past meetings are available at rentonwa.gov/youtube.

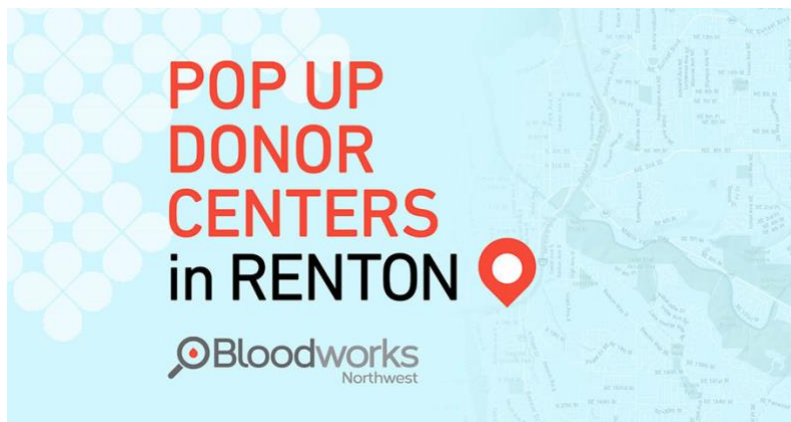
CALENDAR

Daily, Senior Meals, free, drive-thru sack lunch pick up. Limited quantities. Mon.-Fri., 11:30 a.m., Renton Senior Activity Center, [211 Burnett Ave. N.](#)

Mondays, 5:30-7:30 p.m. **Sustainable Renton free drive-through grocery store** at St. Matthew’s Lutheran Church, [1700 Edmonds Ave. NE](#)

Wednesdays, bi-weekly, 6 p.m., **Renton Live!** Online connection promoting business, nonprofits and activities within the greater Renton community. Find the link on the Renton Live [Facebook page](#).

Library resources and events, ongoing. Filter by event, program, and location. kcls.org



April 15, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., **Pop-Up Blood Drive**, [Lindbergh High School](#)

April 16, 8 a.m.-2 p.m., **Pop-Up Blood Drive**, [Lindbergh High School](#)

April 17, 10 a.m., **[Erasmus Hatch Day Celebration!](#)**, downtown

April 17, 11 a.m., **Guided Nature Walk** for all ages at Gene Coulon Memorial Beach Park. rentonwa.gov/register. \$12R / \$15NR.

April 24, 9 a.m. -12 p.m. [Shred-a-thon & Prescription Take-Back](#)